



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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FB08-015

NOAA Approves Amendment to Implement Rebuilding Plans for South Atlantic Stocks of Snowy Grouper, Black Sea Bass, and Red Porgy

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) has approved Amendment 15A to the South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan. A notice of agency action published in the *Federal Register* on March 20, 2008.

Stock assessments performed through the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review process have revealed that the South Atlantic stocks of snowy grouper, black sea bass, and red porgy are overfished. The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) is required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to implement rebuilding plans for these overfished species. The purpose of implementing rebuilding plans is to achieve conservation goals and rebuild the overfished stocks, while minimizing, to the extent practicable, adverse social and economic impacts.

Amendment 15A was developed by the Council in order to: 1) Update management reference points for snowy grouper, black sea bass, and red porgy; 2) modify rebuilding strategies for snowy grouper, and black sea bass; 3) define rebuilding strategies for snowy grouper, black sea bass, and red porgy; and 4) redefine the minimum stock size threshold for the snowy grouper stock.

None of the measures included in Amendment 15A involve changes to current regulations; therefore, no proposed or final rule is required at this time. The decision of NOAA Fisheries Service to approve this amendment was based on consideration of comments, recommendations, and information received during the comment periods for this action.

Addresses:

Electronic copies of the Notice of Agency Action, published in the *Federal Register* on March 20, 2008, may be obtained from the Federal Register Web site at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. Copies of the amendment may be obtained from the Council by sending a written request to:

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, South Carolina 29405

You may also obtain copies of the amendment by e-mailing safmc@safmc.net, or calling the Council's toll free number: 1-866-SAFMC-10.

How Can We Improve These Fishery Bulletins?

If you have any suggestions on how we may improve the contents of future fishery bulletins please contact:

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